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IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

Claims 5-6 (previously canceled)

Claims 7-36 (canceled)

Sub. D1>

37. (NEW)

A method of providing operating code to a peripheral device of a gaming machine comprising:

initiating operation of said gaming machine, said gaming machine including a gaming machine controller configured to present at one or more times, via the use of one or more peripheral devices associated with said gaming machine, a game for play by a player;

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transmitting a signal from at least one of said peripheral devices to said gaming machine controller, causing said gaming machine controller to provide control code to said peripheral device for controlling the operation of said peripheral device, said peripheral device used at one or more times to facilitate the presentation of said game at said gaming machine;

transmitting control code to said peripheral device in response to said signal;

storing said control code at a memory of said peripheral device; and

executing said control code with a peripheral device controller of said peripheral device to enable the operation of said peripheral device.

38. (NEW)

The method in accordance with Claim 37 wherein said peripheral device includes minimum resident code enabling said peripheral device to only transmit said signal, said minimum resident code insufficient to enable operation of said peripheral device in conjunction with the presentation of said game, and wherein said transmitted control code comprises code utilized to enable the complete operation of said peripheral device in association with the presentation of said game.

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39. (NEW)

The method in accordance with Claim 38 including the step of resetting said peripheral device, removing previously existing control code and utilizing said resident code to transmit said signal to obtain new control code.

cont.

40. (NEW)

The method in accordance with Claim 39 wherein said resetting step includes removing power to said peripheral device and then providing power to said peripheral device.

41. (NEW)

The method in accordance with Claim 37 including the step of said gaming machine controller sending a polling signal to said peripheral device and said peripheral device transmitting said signal in response to said polling signal.

42. (NEW)

The method in accordance with Claim 37 wherein said peripheral device is selected from the group consisting of: a bill validator, a touch screen controller, a button controller, a lamp controller, a display controller, a display, a printing device, a coin acceptor, a player tracking device, and a card reader.

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43. (NEW)

The method in accordance with Claim 37 including the step of authenticating said control code before transmitting said control code to said peripheral device.

cont

44. (NEW)

The method in accordance with Claim 37 wherein said signal transmitted from said peripheral device to said gaming machine controller identifies said peripheral device as a download device requiring control code to enable its operation.

45. (NEW)

The method in accordance with Claim 37 including the step of periodically verifying said control code transmitted to said peripheral device including transmitting said control code from said peripheral device to said gaming machine controller for comparison to the control code originally transmitted to said peripheral device.

46. (NEW)

A gaming machine for presenting a game to a player comprising:

a gaming machine including one or more peripheral devices and a gaming machine controller configured to utilize one or more of said peripheral devices to present a game for play by a player;

at least one of said peripheral devices configured as a download device, said at least one peripheral device configured as a download device and including a peripheral device controller;

resident code stored at said at least one peripheral device configured as a download device, said resident code configured to generate a signal for transmission to said gaming machine controller requesting control code for enabling operation of said at least one peripheral device configured as a download device but insufficient to enable complete operation of said peripheral device; and

a memory device accessible by said at least one peripheral device configured as a download device, said memory device configured to store said control code downloaded to said at least one peripheral device configured as a download device for enabling operation of said at least one peripheral device configured as a download device.

47. (NEW)

The gaming machine in accordance with Claim 46 including a read-only memory associated with said at least one peripheral device configured as a download device for storing said resident code.

48. (NEW)

The gaming machine in accordance with Claim 46 wherein said at least one peripheral device configured as a download device is selected from the group consisting of: a bill validator, a touch screen controller, a button controller, a lamp controller, a display controller, a display, a printing device, a coin acceptor, a player tracking device, and a card reader.

49. (NEW)

The gaming machine in accordance with Claim 46 wherein said at least one peripheral device configured as a download device is configured as a USB device.